# Death & Candy

$4.95
$7.50 CAN

number 4

fantagraphics books

# BERLIN, MARCH 22, 2003

LARS SJUNNESSON

MAX ANDERSSON

PERHAPS SOME SORT OF SUMMARY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AT THIS POINT IN OUR STORY.

YES. BUT WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

I DON'T KNOW. I'M HAVING TROUBLE RECALLING WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED. IT WAS SUCH A LONG TIME AGO.

WHY DOES EVERYTHING TAKE US SO LONG?

IN THE BEGINNING I THOUGHT WE WOULD WORK TWICE AS FAST, SINCE THERE WERE TWO OF US.

INSTEAD IT SEEMS WE'VE COMBINED OUR WORST CHARACTERISTICS, SUCH AS INDECISIVENESS AND LACK OF DISCIPLINE, MAKING US TWICE AS SLOW AS WHEN WE WORK EACH ONE FOR HIMSELF.

PLUS WE ONLY GET PAID HALF AS MUCH.

CAN WE EVEN AFFORD TO CONTINUE?

WE CAN'T BACK OUT NOW. WE ALREADY PUBLISHED THE FIRST TWO PARTS, SO THE READERS CRAVE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.

WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO REMEMBER MORE.

EVERYTHING WAS BEEN SO CLEAR IN THE BEGINNING. THREE YEARS AGO WE ATTENDED A COMICS CONVENTION IN LJUBLJANA. THERE WE GET A CALL FROM SKLEDAR, WHO OFFERS US HIS WAR DIARIES FROM BOSNIA, TO MAKE US RICH.

BUT AS WE'RE ABOUT TO COLLECT THEM, WE GET FIRED UPON WITH MISSILES FILLED WITH ICE CREAM, AND SINCE THEY PROVE TO BE MANUFACTURED IN SARAJEVO WE DECIDE TO GO THERE.

BUT HOW COME WE MET MIRA IN SARAJEVO?

SHE THOUGHT YOU WERE SKLEDAR.

SHE DID? I DON'T REMEMBER.

WAS MIRA SKLEDAR'S EX-GIRLFRIEND?

YES. THEY BROKE UP BECAUSE TITO, WHO THEY'D FOUND IN A REFRIGERATOR, WAS ROTTING AWAY IN THE SUMMER HEAT AND THE POWER WAS GONE DUE TO THE WAR SO MIRA GAVE AWAY HIS LEFT LEG TO A SREBRENICA REFUGEE WHO WAS HUNGRY.

BUT SKLEDAR HAD FOUNDED HIS WHOLE CONCEPTION OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP UPON THE HOPE OF SELLING TITO AND THEREBY SECURING THEIR FUTURE TOGETHER, SO HE COULDN'T FORGIVE HER BUT TOOK OFF WITH THE REMAINS OF TITO AND SHE NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN.

THAT'S TERRIBLY SAD!

YES, AND THERE'S THE GUILT COMPLEX ON TOP OF THAT.

WHAT GUILT COMPLEX?

YOU FELT BAD BECAUSE YOU'D USED SKLEDAR AS A COMICS CHARACTER AND NEVER PAID HIM FOR IT.

THAT'S WHY YOU HAD TO FIND HIM.

SOMETIMES I WONDER IF WE EVER MADE THAT JOURNEY.

DAMN. WHAT IF THE WHOLE JOURNEY IS JUST SOMETHING WE'VE IMAGINED.

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT THE FEW THINGS YOU DO REMEMBER ARE REALLY ACCURATE? AFTER ALL, MEMORIES ARE SUBJECTIVE.

IT'S WORSE THAN THAT.

I'VE NOTICED THAT UPON DRAWING SOMETHING I'VE EXPERIENCED, THE MEMORY IMPRINTS DISAPPEAR AND ARE REPLACED IN MY HEAD BY MY OWN DRAWINGS.

MY ATTEMPT AT DEPICTING REALITY EVENTUALLY BECOMES THE ONLY THING THAT'S TRULY REAL. IT'S UNCANNY.

BUT COULD IT BE THAT...

WAIT. WAIT!

COULD YOU TAKE THAT OVER AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING? I THOUGHT I'D FILM YOU TO PUT ON RECORD HOW YOU GO ABOUT IT WHEN YOU'RE WORKING TOGETHER.

UH... WHERE WERE WE?

I DUNNO...

WHY DON'T YOU TELL US ABOUT THE DOGS?

IT'S KIND OF HARD TO GET THE DOGS TO FIT IN. THEY'VE GOT NO REAL CONNECTION TO THE STORY.

I DON'T SEEM TO REMEMBER WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

YOU DREAMED ABOUT THEM.

THEN YOU MADE A COMIC ABOUT THEM.

THIS COMIC?

NO, IT WAS ANOTHER ONE, EARLIER. YOU USED THEM AS MATERIAL FOR COMICS CHARACTERS.

IT'S PERFECTLY LEGAL EVERYTHING YOU DREAM ABOUT BECOMES YOUR PROPERTY.

ONLY THEN IT TURNED OUT THE DOGS EXISTED FOR REAL IN SARAJEVO.

THEY'D APPEARED AFTER THE WAR ABOUT AT THE SAME TIME AS YOU STARTED DREAMING ABOUT THEM. IT WAS BOSNIA'S SOLE INDIGENOUS BREED OF DOG, AND THEY CALLED IT "BOSNIAN FLAT DOG".

NOW I REMEMBER! THEY FOLLOWED ME EVERYWHERE I WENT. IT WAS KIND OF DISTURBING. I FELT RESPONSIBLE IN SOME OBSCURE WAY.

MEANWHILE I WAS TRYING TO HAVE A BATH. BUT I WAS ABDUCTED BY A HORDE OF SREBRENICA WOMEN WHO FORCED THEIR WAY INTO THE BATHROOM.

IT WAS YOUR OWN FAULT. YOU OUGHTN'T HAVE SHOWN THAT MUCH SKIN.

YOU SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED MY EXAMPLE. I DRESSED UP AS A SREBRENICA WOMAN BEFORE I WENT OUT AT NIGHT. THAT WAY I KEPT FROM BEING MOLESTED.

BUT WHY DID YOU GO OUT ALONE? NOT EVEN THE SFOR-SOLDIERS DARED TO DO THAT. WHAT WITH THE DISAPPEARINGS AND ALL.

I HAD TO. I WANTED ICE CREAM.

THEN I WANTED TO PLAY IN AN APACHE HELICOPTER FOR KIDS THAT WAS PUT ON SHOW IN A PARK. THAT'S WHEN THINGS WENT SERIOUSLY BAD. I FELL DOWN A HOLE, AND EVERYTHING WENT BLACK.

I CAN'T REMEMBER MUCH OF ALL THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED NEXT EITHER. ABOVE ALL, I DON'T RECALL A THING ABOUT THE OPERATION.

THE READERS DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT YET. THE OPERATION ISN'T UNTIL THE NEXT CHAPTER.

OH, RIGHT.

IN MY OPINION, THE MEDIA PRESENTS THE SREBRENICA WOMEN IN AN UNDESCRIMINATING MANNER. THEY WERE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE.

YOU BOY.

BUT WHAT WAS MIRA AND HELENA DOING WHILE ALL THIS WAS GOING ON?

WATCHING THE EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.

BUT WE RAN OUT OF BOOZE SO WE HAD TO GO TO A BAR WITH A BIG-SCREEN TV.

IT FELT WEIRD TO WATCH BOSNIA PARTICIPATE FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHILE THE NATO PLANES PASSED ABOVE THE SCREEN ON THEIR WAY TO BOMB THE NEIGHBOR COUNTRY.

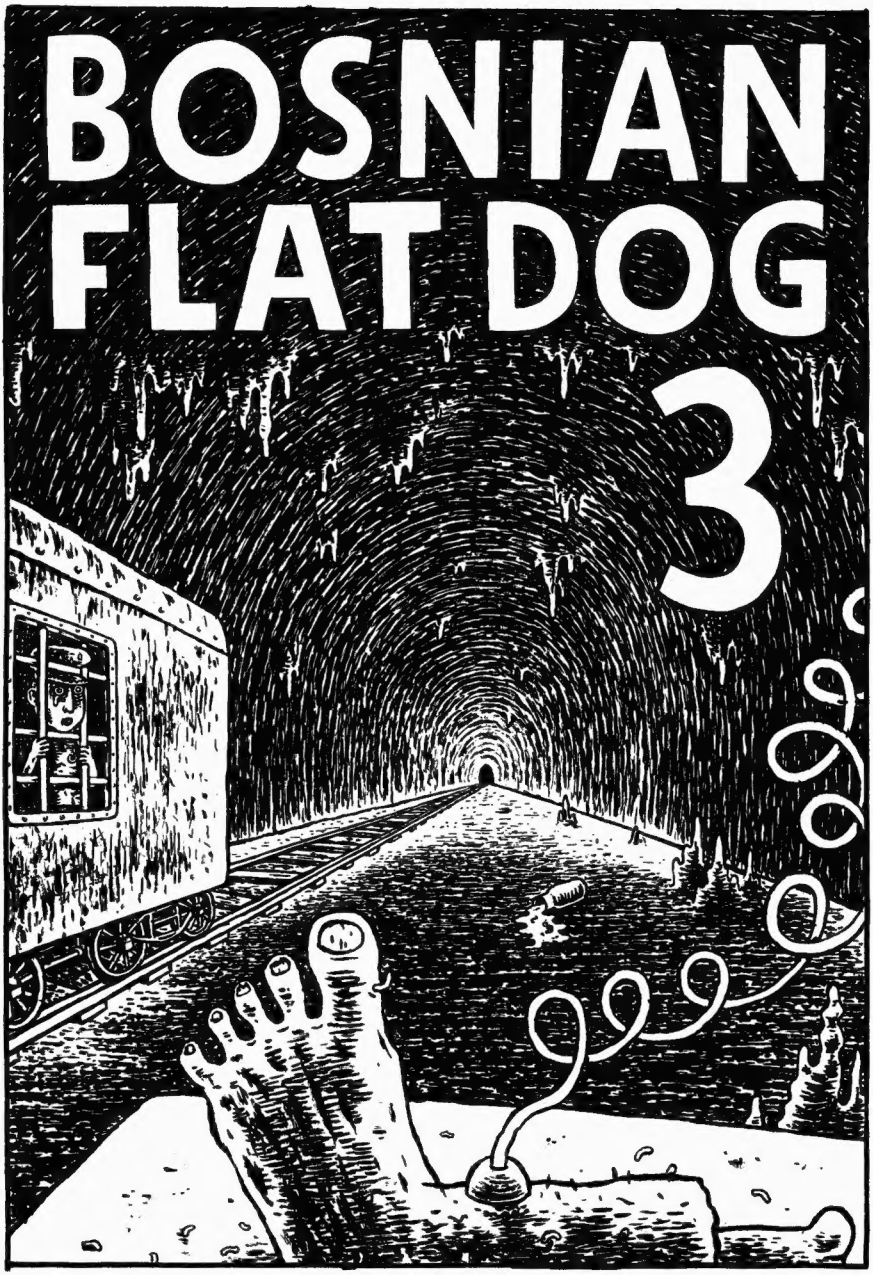
CAN SERBIA ENTER THE EUROVISION SONG CONTEST NOW THAT THEY EXTRADITED MILOSEVIC TO THE HAGUE?

I GUESS.

CAN PALESTINE TAKE PART IF THEY PROMISE NOT TO VOTE FOR ARAFAT?

I DON'T KNOW IF HE WANTS TO PERFORM IN THE EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.

MAYBE WE CAN TALK HIM INTO IT?


BOSNIAN
FLAT DOG
3

EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

LA FRANCE HUIT POINTS, LUXEMBOURG DIX POINTS, ET LA SUÈDE DOUZE POINTS!

BAR

YESSS!

RIGHT ON!

YEAH!

FUNNY THERE ARE SO MANY FANS OF SWEDEN HERE.

L'AUTRICHE DIX POINTS, ET LA SUÈDE DOUZE POINTS!

HURRAY!! WE WON!!

GO SWEDEN GO!

YESS!!

LISTEN UP! EVERYONE IS TERRIBLY WELCOME TO THE SWEDISH EMBASSY TO CELEBRATE THE SWEDISH VICTORY!

THIS IS TOO MUCH. LET'S GO SOME PLACE ELSE.

SWEDEN! SWEDEN!

HEY!

HURRAY

YES

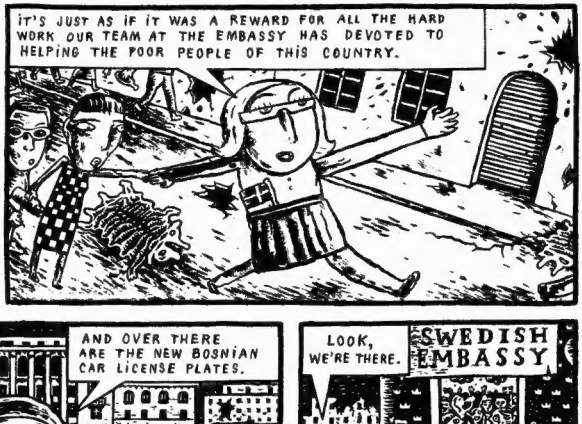
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU'RE SWEDISH TOO, AREN'T YOU?

HIP HIP

YES

SWEDEN!

ISN'T IT ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL THAT SWEDEN WON?!

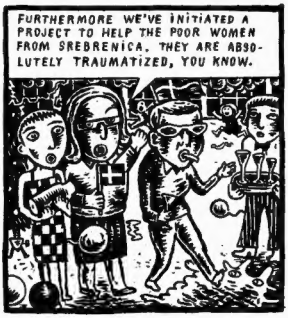

IT'S JUST AS IF IT WAS A REWARD FOR ALL THE HARD WORK OUR TEAM AT THE EMBASSY HAS DEVOTED TO HELPING THE POOR PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.

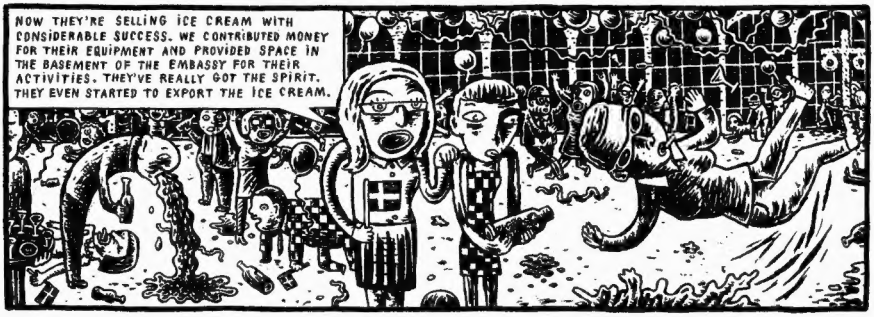
YOU SEE THE BANNER UP THERE? THAT'S THE NEW BOSNIAN FLAG WHICH WE DEVELOPED FOR THEM.
AND OVER THERE ARE THE NEW BOSNIAN CAR LICENSE PLATES.
HIK 025
ISN'T IT JUST BEAUTIFUL? IT'S BLUE AND YELLOW, JUST LIKE THE SWEDISH ONE.
I DESIGNED THOSE.

LOOK, WE'RE THERE.
SWEDISH EMBASSY

THIS IS THE MATTRESS THAT CARL BILDT SLEPT ON WHEN HE WAS HIGH REPRESENTATIVE AFTER THE WAR. WE KEPT IT AS A MONUMENT TO THOSE EARLY YEARS OF BITTER STRUGGLE.

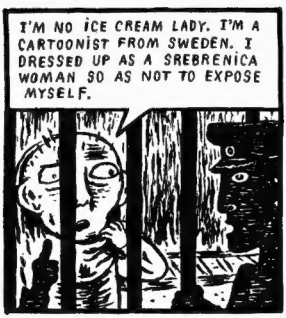
BACK THEN, THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS IN RUINS AND NOTHING WAS WORKING. WE HAD TO START WITH OUR OWN BARE HANDS, BUT NOW WE HAVE AN ALL NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART EMBASSY.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?


FURTHERMORE WE'VE INITIATED A PROJECT TO HELP THE POOR WOMEN FROM SREBRENICA. THEY ARE ABSOLUTELY TRAUMATIZED, YOU KNOW.


NOW THEY'RE SELLING ICE CREAM WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. WE CONTRIBUTED MONEY FOR THEIR EQUIPMENT AND PROVIDED SPACE IN THE BASEMENT OF THE EMBASSY FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES. THEY'VE REALLY GOT THE SPIRIT. THEY EVEN STARTED TO EXPORT THE ICE CREAM.

MEANWHILE, UNDERGROUND.
WHERE AM I?

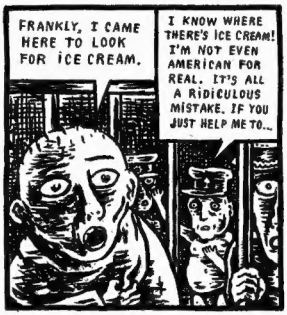
EEK, AN ICE-CREAM LADY!!
DON'T TAKE US!
SOB SOB!
?


I'M NO ICE CREAM LADY. I'M A CARTOONIST FROM SWEDEN. I DRESSED UP AS A SREBRENICA WOMAN SO AS NOT TO EXPOSE MYSELF.

PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US OUT OF HERE. WE'RE U.S. SFOR-SOLDIERS. WE HAVE TO BE BACK AT OUR BARRACKS BY 1800 HOURS OR THE SERGEANT WILL BEAT US UP.

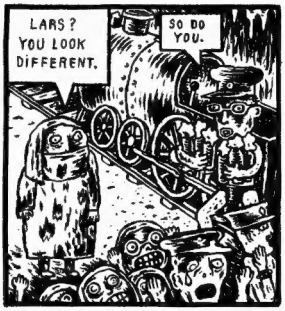
THOSE EVIL ICE CREAM LADIES LURED US DOWN HERE AND LOCKED US UP. WE GET NO CLOTHES EXCEPT ONE OF THESE PEAKED CAPS, AND NOTHING BUT ICE CREAM TO EAT.

EVERY NIGHT THEY COME TO TAKE A FEW OF US AWAY. WE CAN'T TELL WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM, BUT WE CAN HEAR DREADFUL SCREAMS COMING THROUGH THE VENTILATION. NO ONE EVER CAME BACK.

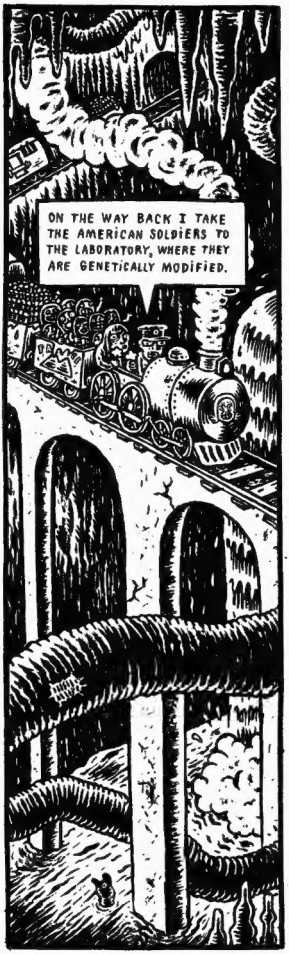

FRANKLY, I CAME HERE TO LOOK FOR ICE CREAM.
I KNOW WHERE THERE'S ICE CREAM! I'M NOT EVEN AMERICAN FOR REAL. IT'S ALL A RIDICULOUS MISTAKE. IF YOU JUST HELP ME TO...

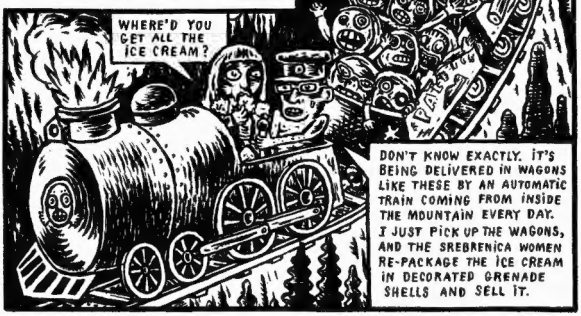
TOOT TOOT!
OH NO! THE TRAIN!
IT'S TOO LATE!!

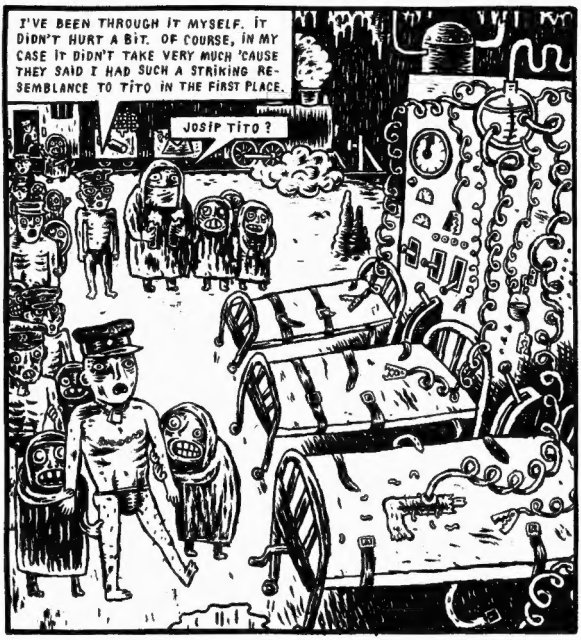
PEACE


LARS? YOU LOOK DIFFERENT.
SO DO YOU.

THIS JOB IS NOT HALF BAD. I ALWAYS WANTED TO DRIVE A TRAIN AS A KID. NOW I GET TO DO IT FOR REAL.


ON THE WAY BACK I TAKE THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO THE LABORATORY, WHERE THEY ARE GENETICALLY MODIFIED.


WHERE'D YOU GET ALL THE ICE CREAM?
DON'T KNOW EXACTLY. IT'S BEING DELIVERED IN WAGONS LIKE THESE BY AN AUTOMATIC TRAIN COMING FROM INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN EVERY DAY. I JUST PICK UP THE WAGONS, AND THE SREBRENICA WOMEN RE-PACKAGE THE ICE CREAM IN DECORATED GRENADE SHELLS AND SELL IT.


I'VE BEEN THROUGH IT MYSELF. IT DIDN'T HURT A BIT. OF COURSE, IN MY CASE IT DIDN'T TAKE VERY MUCH 'CAUSE THEY SAID I HAD SUCH A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO TITO IN THE FIRST PLACE.
JOSIP TITO?

YES. THE RELIC IS TITO'S LEFT LEG. IT WAS ENTRUSTED TO THE SREBRENICA WOMEN BY AN UNKNOWN BENEFACTOR IN SARAJEVO A LONG TIME AGO.

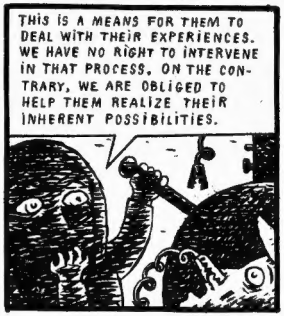
ALTHOUGH IT'S IN A POOR CONDITION, IT'S STILL POSSIBLE TO EXTRACT GENES FROM IT THANKS TO THE LABORATORY WHICH THEY'VE BUILT WITH THE AID OF DEVELOPMENT MONEY FROM SWEDEN.

THE YOUNG AMERICANS ARE HEALTHY AND WELL-FED, BUT THEIR APPEARANCE NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED.
TITO'S GENES ARE TRANSMITTED TO THEM IN ORDER TO MAKE THEM MANLIER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW? THEY NEVER SAY A SINGLE WORD.

WORDS ARE UNNECESSARY. BY PUTTING MYSELF IN THE SITUATION OF THE SREBRENICA WOMEN AND IDENTIFYING WITH THEM, I HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THEM.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN ARTIST.

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHAT IS IT THAT THEY WANT?
WHAT THEY WANT IS IRRELEVANT. THEY DO WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR CHARACTER.

BUT SURELY THERE HAS GOT TO BE A MEANING?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT IN REAL LIFE.

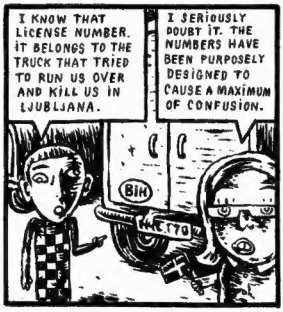

THIS IS A MEANS FOR THEM TO DEAL WITH THEIR EXPERIENCES. WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN THAT PROCESS. ON THE CONTRARY, WE ARE OBLIGED TO HELP THEM REALIZE THEIR INHERENT POSSIBILITIES.

AAAAAAH

MEANWHILE
OOPS, I SLIPPED ON AN ENORMOUS PUDDLE OF PUKE.
THAT'S NO PUKE, THAT'S A BOSNIAN FLAT DOG! QUICK, DON'T LET IT GET AWAY!

THEY'RE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN ON THE EMBASSY PREMISES. THEY SPREAD DISEASES AND BESIDES MANY OF THE STAFF ARE ALLERGIC.
P

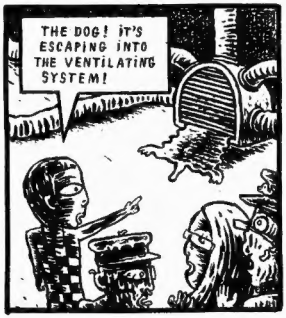
THERE IT IS! IT'S SNEAKING INTO THE TRUCK!
P


I KNOW THAT LICENSE NUMBER. IT BELONGS TO THE TRUCK THAT TRIED TO RUN US OVER AND KILL US IN LJUBLJANA.
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT IT. THE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN PURPOSELY DESIGNED TO CAUSE A MAXIMUM OF CONFUSION.
BIH
170

THIS IS ONE OF THE SREBRENICA WOMEN'S ICE CREAM WAGONS, WHICH WE KINDLY PUT AT THEIR DISPOSAL. I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT DOG DOESN'T CONTAMINATE THE ICE CREAM!

I'VE GOT IT!

TITO ZOMBIE PROSTITUTES!
THIS IS NOT GOOD. I THOUGHT WE WERE EXPORTING ICE CREAM.


THE DOG! IT'S ESCAPING INTO THE VENTILATING SYSTEM!

I'VE GOT IT!

AW, IT WAS JUST AN OLD PIECE OF PAPER.

IT'S A PAGE FROM A DIARY!
IT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING.

"SEPTEMBER 3. HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN WANDERING ABOUT THIS TUNNEL SYSTEM?"

WHY AM I HERE AT ALL? I CAN'T REMEMBER. I'D BETTER LOOK IT UP IN MY DIARIES.

DANG! SOMEONE RIPPED OUT ALL THE PAGES FROM THE BEGINNING OF MY DIARY.

IT'S SKLEDAR! HOW COULD WE HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT HIM?
SKLEDAR? HE WAS HERE?

MAYBE THERE'S MORE DOWN THERE?

I SEE SOME SORT OF BRIGHT SPOTS THAT MIGHT BE DIARY PAGES!
WE HAVE TO CRAWL INTO THE TUNNEL!

IT WASN'T PAPER, ONLY MORE BOSNIAN FLAT DOGS. THEY APPEAR TO BE VAGUELY FLUORESCENT.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE DEPLETED URANIUM MUNITIONS THAT'RE SCATTERED ALL OVER THESE PARTS. HERE'S A DIARY PAGE.

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE! WE CAN FOLLOW THEM LIKE A TRAIL.

"NOVEMBER 4, 1995. I'M OBVIOUSLY ONLY MOVING IN CIRCLES, WITH NO PROPER MEANS OF ORIENTATION."
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? WHAT IF I NEVER FIND MY WAY OUT OF HERE?

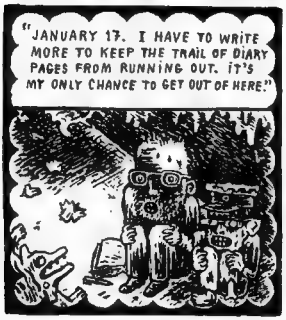
NOW I KNOW!
I'LL TEAR UP MY DIARIES!

THIS MAKES A GOOD TRAIL. FROM NOW ON I WILL BE ABLE TO TELL EXACTLY WHERE I WAS PREVIOUSLY.

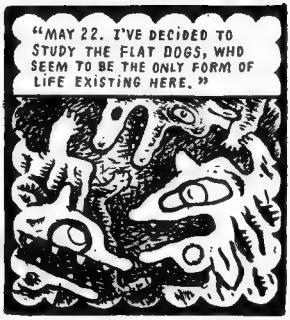
OH SHIT, WE SHOULDN'T HAVE PICKED THE PAGES UP.

BY READING THEM, WE SIMULTANEOUSLY DESTROYED THE TRAIL LEADING BACK TO WHERE WE CAME FROM.

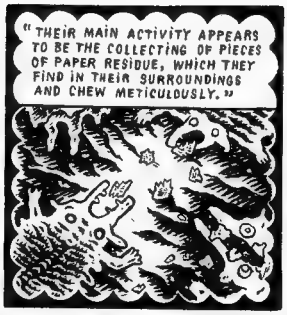
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO READ ON. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET OUT OF HERE.


"JANUARY 17. I HAVE TO WRITE MORE TO KEEP THE TRAIL OF DIARY PAGES FROM RUNNING OUT. IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO GET OUT OF HERE."

BUT WHAT SHALL I WRITE ABOUT? THERE'S NOTHING HAPPENING DOWN HERE.


"MAY 22. I'VE DECIDED TO STUDY THE FLAT DOGS, WHO SEEM TO BE THE ONLY FORM OF LIFE EXISTING HERE."

"AUGUST 11. THE DOGS LEAD A RELATIVELY SECLUDED AND MONOTONOUS LIFE."


"THEIR MAIN ACTIVITY APPEARS TO BE THE COLLECTING OF PIECES OF PAPER RESIDUE, WHICH THEY FIND IN THEIR SURROUNDINGS AND CHEW METICULOUSLY."

"THE RESULTING SUBSTANCE IS SPEWED UP AND SUBSEQUENTLY USED AS A BUILDING MATERIAL FOR EXPANDING THEIR NESTS."

THAT'S THE END OF THE TRAIL OF NOTES. WE'RE NOT GETTING ANY FURTHER.
NO, WAIT!

I CAN SEE REMAINS OF DIARY PAGES EMBEDDED IN THE WALLS.

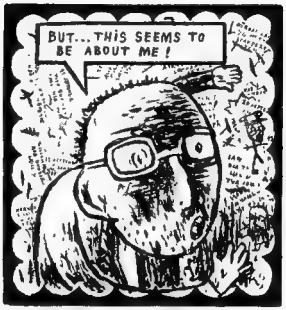
THEY HAVE BEEN CHEWED AND MIXED WITH SALIVA UNTIL THEY'VE REACHED A CEMENT-LIKE CONSISTENCY, BUT CERTAIN FRAGMENTS ARE STILL RECOGNIZABLE.

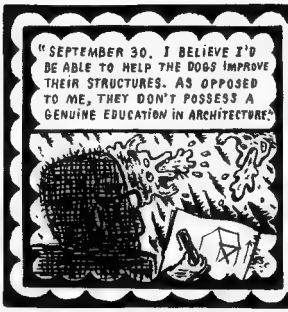
"JUNE 8. I MUST HAVE COVERED A LONG DISTANCE. THE TUNNEL SYSTEM IS BEGINNING TO CHANGE. IT'S GETTING NARROWER AND SORT OF SPONGY."

"FURTHERMORE I HAVE THIS UNDEFINED NOTION THAT THE SYSTEM IS CONSTANTLY EXPANDING."

THIS EXTENSION TUNNEL WASN'T HERE YESTERDAY. WHO COULD HAVE BUILT IT?

WHAT'S THIS? SOMEONE'S BEEN WRITING ON THE WALLS!
COULD IT BE THAT I'M NOT ALONE AFTER ALL?

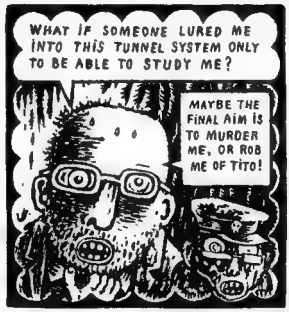

BUT...THIS SEEMS TO BE ABOUT ME!


"SEPTEMBER 30. I BELIEVE I'D BE ABLE TO HELP THE DOGS IMPROVE THEIR STRUCTURES. AS OPPOSED TO ME, THEY DON'T POSSESS A GENUINE EDUCATION IN ARCHITECTURE."

"APRIL 5. I'M BEGINNING TO LEARN HOW TO CHEW THE PAPERS AND THROW THEM UP AGAIN."

GROSS!
POOR GUY, HE MUST HAVE SUFFERED DOWN HERE.

"OCTOBER 9. SOMEBODY IS OBSERVING ME, REGISTERING MY EVERY MOVE. I NO LONGER FEEL SECURE."


WHAT IF SOMEONE LURED ME INTO THIS TUNNEL SYSTEM ONLY TO BE ABLE TO STUDY ME?
MAYBE THE FINAL AIM IS TO MURDER ME, OR ROB ME OF TITO!

"NOVEMBER 17. I'VE GOT TO TRY TO BLEND IN MORE WITH THE FLAT DOGS. THAT WAY I'LL BE ABLE TO LOSE MY PURSUERS."

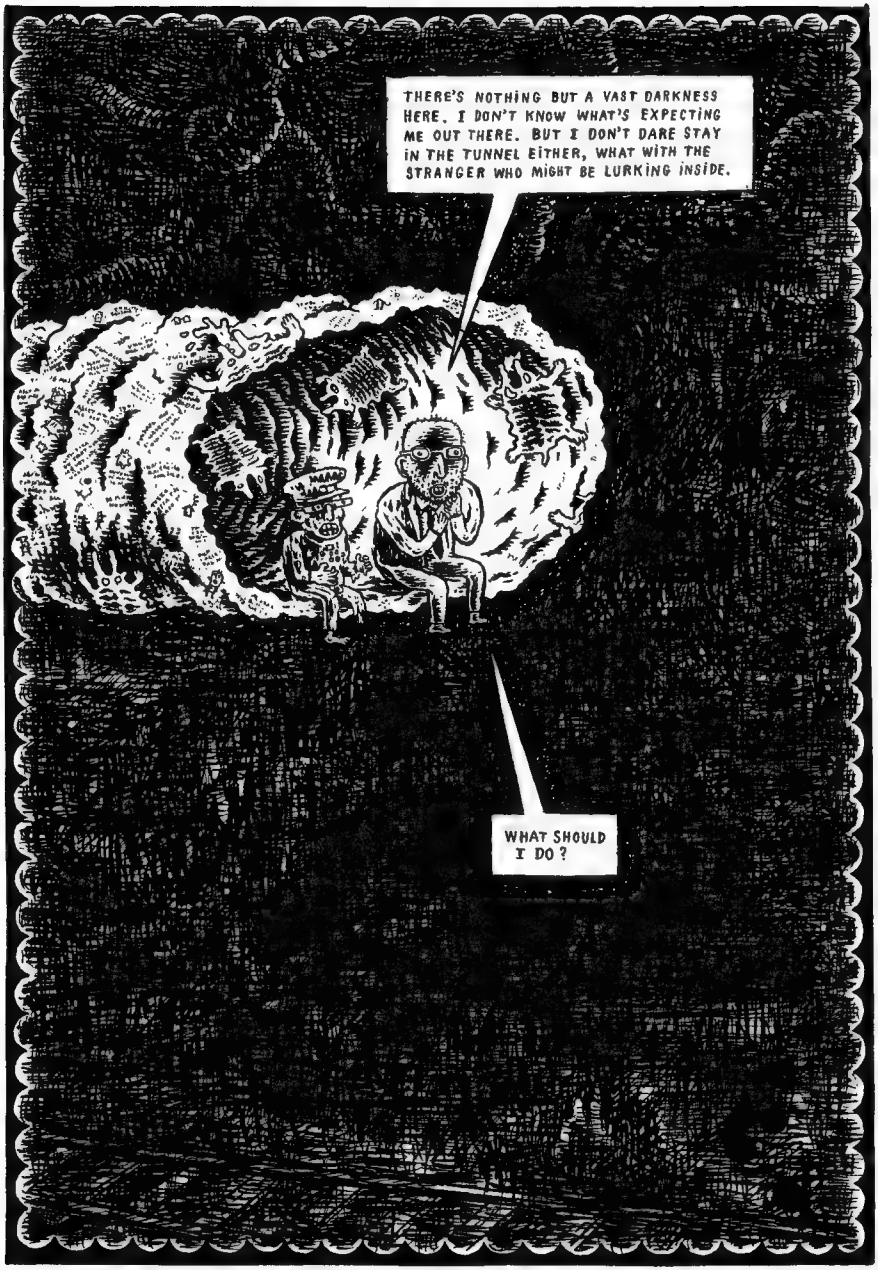
THE FRAGMENTS ARE GETTING SMALLER AND SMALLER!
WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO MAKE THEM OUT, OR WE'RE FINISHED!

"JULY 29. THE DOGS HAVE ACCEPTED ME AND TITO AS MEMBERS OF THE PACK. TOGETHER WE MOVE TOWARDS WHAT APPEARS TO BE A COMMON GOAL."

"SEPTEMBER 13. I SEEM TO DETECT A DARK SPOT AT THE FAR END OF OUR DIRECTION. COULD IT BE..."

... THE END OF THE TUNNEL!

THE LAST LEGIBLE DIARY ENTRY!
TELL ME! WHAT DOES IT SAY?


THERE'S NOTHING BUT A VAST DARKNESS HERE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S EXPECTING ME OUT THERE. BUT I DON'T DARE STAY IN THE TUNNEL EITHER, WHAT WITH THE STRANGER WHO MIGHT BE LURKING INSIDE.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

THE EXECUTION
WATCH OUT!
HUH?

SORRY, DAD. I-I MUST HAVE DOZED OFF.
OH NO, IT'S THE COPS.
SMALL WONDER. YOU'VE BEEN DRIVING LIKE AN IDIOT FOR HOURS.
I DON'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO SPEND THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS BEHIND BARS. WE FOUND A WHOLE TRUCKLOAD OF HEROIN THAT APPARENTLY BELONGS TO YOU.
STOP

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HA, THEY FORGOT TO ASK ABOUT THE DRIVER'S LICENSE.

THIS SEEMS FAMILIAR. DIDN'T WE USED TO LIVE HERE?
YES. THE SOIL IS BEING DE-CONTAMINATED. THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO MOVE OUT.

THEY NEEDED THE PROPERTY FOR THE NEW JAIL.
PRISON
OUR HOUSE!

WE'VE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH.
THE EXECUTION MAY TAKE PLACE AT ANY TIME.

WHAT THE FUCK! YOU WERE GOING TO KILL ME! ADMIT IT!
WELL... MAYBE... THEY SAID I HAD TO DO IT.
NO YOU DON'T! YOU SHOULDN'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING PEOPLE TELL YOU!

I'M SORRY I YELLED AT YOU. I LIKE YOU, REALLY.

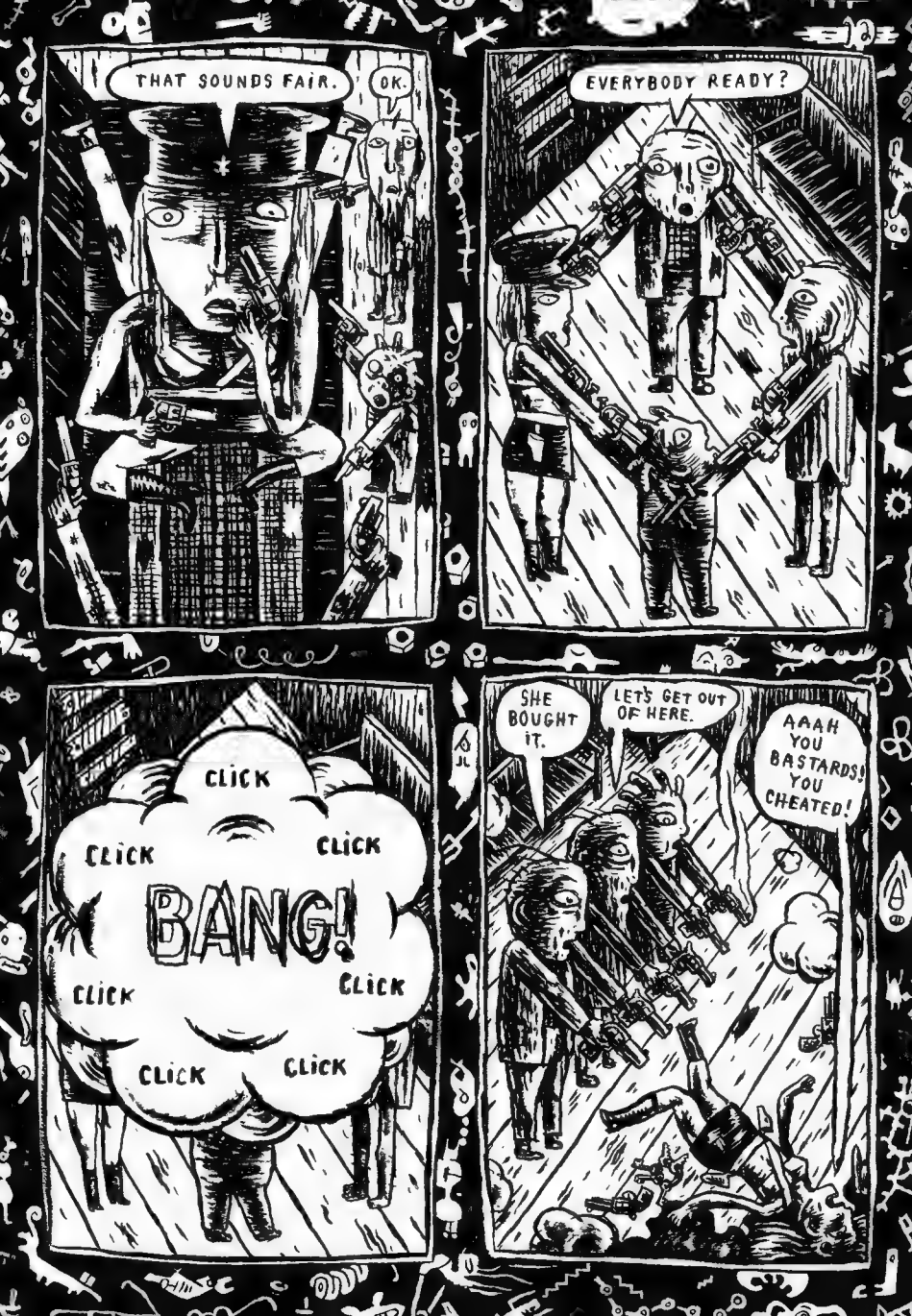
I'M GETTING OLD, TOO. I ONLY HAVE TWO SINGLE STRANDS OF HAIR LEFT ON MY FOREHEAD. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM.

HA HA HA HA HA HA!
HEY LOOK!

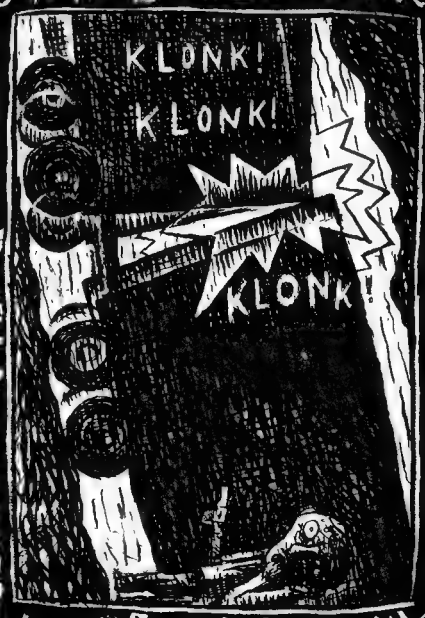
THAT WAS FUNNY.
BE QUIET, THEY'RE COMING!

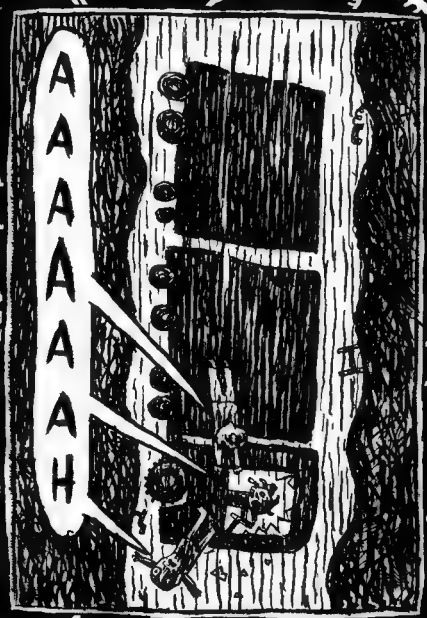
GET UNDRESSED AND GIVE ME YOUR CLOTHES. I HAVE A PLAN.
I WILL DIVERT THEIR ATTENTION BY PRETENDING TO BE YOU. MEANWHILE, YOU HIDE UNDER THIS LOOSE FLOORBOARD AND WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO ESCAPE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE YOUNG GUY AND THE KID?
I DON'T KNOW.
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR HURRY? WHY DON'T YOU HANG OUT HERE FOR A WHILE?

OK! NOBODY MOVES!
WAIT! WAIT! THIS IS GOING NOWHERE.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA. LET'S EMPTY OUR PIECES EXCEPT FOR ONE ROUND, SPIN THE BARRELS AND POINT ONE GUN EACH AT THE PERSON STANDING TO OUR RIGHT AND ONE AT THE PERSON TO OUR LEFT. THEN WE PULL THE TRIGGERS ALL AT ONCE. IF NO ONE DIES, WE START ALL OVER AGAIN.


THAT SOUNDS FAIR.
OK.
EVERYBODY READY?
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
BANG!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
SHE BOUGHT IT.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
AAAH YOU BASTARDS! YOU CHEATED!

GET THAT TRUCK STARTED! I'LL COVER YOU!
HEY! PULL THE HANDBRAKE!
WHAT?
THE HANDBRAKE! THE HANDBRAKE!
I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE IT IS!
FOUND IT! NOW WHAT?
KLONK
KLONK
DON'T MOVE! THE SLIGHTEST VIBRATION COULD THROW US OFF BALANCE!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

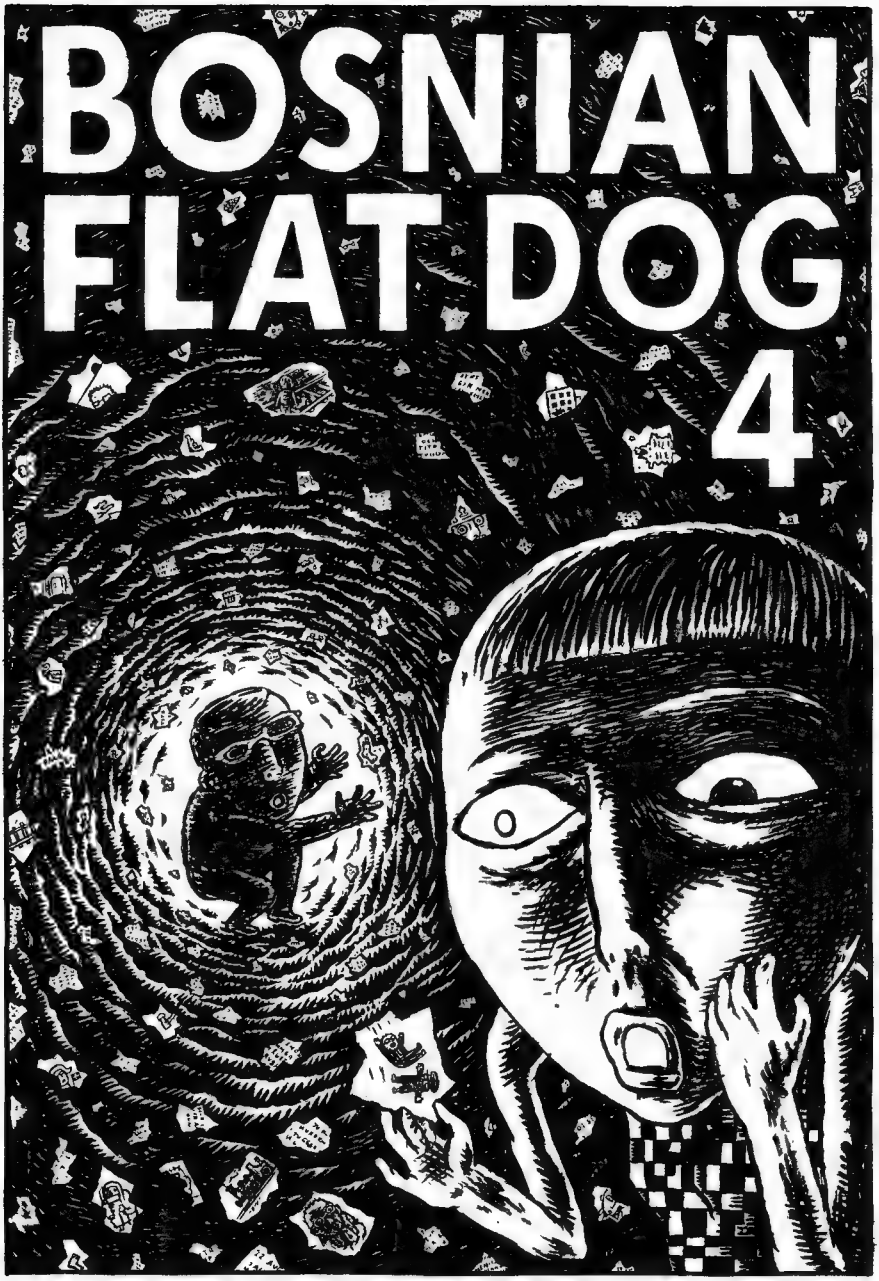

KLONK!
KLONK!
KLONK!


AAAAAAAH

OW!

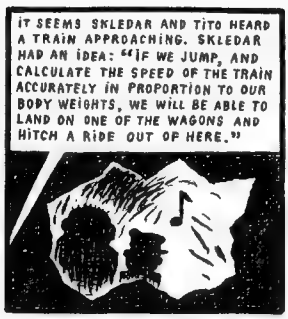
DAD!
DAD!
ARE YOU
OK?

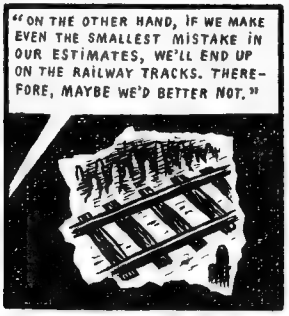
# BOSNIAN FLAT DOG 4

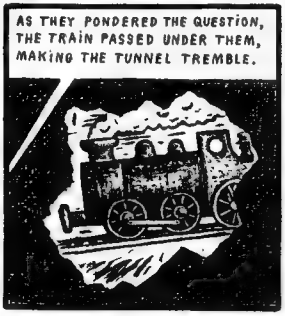


ALL THE DIARY PAGES HAVE BEEN CHEWED UP AND TRANSFORMED TO TUNNEL WALLS. THAT MEANS WE'LL NEVER GET TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO SKLEDAR. AND AT THE MOST EXCITING MOMENT AT THAT!
WE STILL HAVE THESE MICROSCOPIC FRAGMENTS LEFT.

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE INDIVIDUALLY INDECIPHERABLE, PUTTING THEM TOGETHER APPEARS TO PUT THEM IN SOME SORT OF CONTEXT.


IT SEEMS SKLEDAR AND TITO HEARD A TRAIN APPROACHING. SKLEDAR HAD AN IDEA: "IF WE JUMP, AND CALCULATE THE SPEED OF THE TRAIN ACCURATELY IN PROPORTION TO OUR BODY WEIGHTS, WE WILL BE ABLE TO LAND ON ONE OF THE WAGONS AND HITCH A RIDE OUT OF HERE."


"ON THE OTHER HAND, IF WE MAKE EVEN THE SMALLEST MISTAKE IN OUR ESTIMATES, WE'LL END UP ON THE RAILWAY TRACKS. THEREFORE, MAYBE WE'D BETTER NOT."


AS THEY PONDERED THE QUESTION, THE TRAIN PASSED UNDER THEM, MAKING THE TUNNEL TREMBLE.

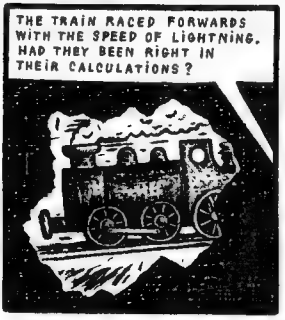
THE QUAKE CAUSED TITO TO LOSE HIS FOOTING AND AS SKLEDAR TRIED TO HOLD HIM, THEY BOTH FELL!

THEY MISSED THE TRAIN AND SUFFERED SEVERE INJURIES FROM THE IMPACT. AS TITO WAS ALREADY AN INVALID AND SKLEDAR NOW LIKEWISE UNABLE TO MOVE, A BITTER FATE AWAITED THEM.

THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT HAPPENED. IT'S ALL A MATTER OF READING THE DIFFERENT FRAGMENTS IN THE RIGHT SEQUENCE.

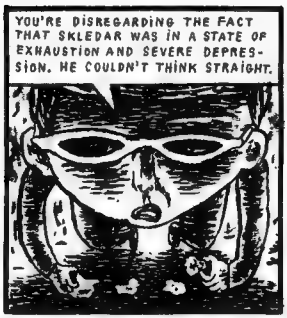
AS SOON AS THE TRAIN DREW NEAR, SKLEDAR TOLD TITO: "THIS IS OUR CHANCE, OLD CHUM. IT'S NOW OR NEVER."

NOT HESITATING FOR A MOMENT, TITO PLUNGED INTO THE DARKNESS, RAPIDLY FOLLOWED BY SKLEDAR.


THE TRAIN RACED FORWARDS WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTNING. HAD THEY BEEN RIGHT IN THEIR CALCULATIONS?

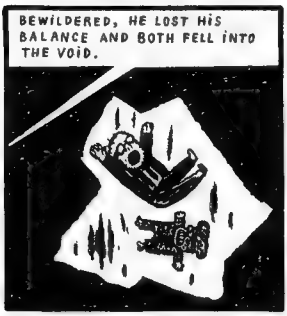
WHEN THE SMOKE AND STEAM DISPERSED, THE TRACKS WERE EMPTY!

SO SKLEDAR AND TITO MADE IT ON BOARD THE TRAIN AFTER ALL!
YOU'RE WRONG.


YOU'RE DISREGARDING THE FACT THAT SKLEDAR WAS IN A STATE OF EXHAUSTION AND SEVERE DEPRESSION. HE COULDN'T THINK STRAIGHT.

LOOKING OUT OVER THE TRACKS, SKLEDAR THOUGHT: "BECAUSE OF A STUPID LEG, I LEFT MY GIRLFRIEND, AND NOW I'VE LOST EVERYTHING. I MIGHT AS WELL JUMP AND PUT AN END TO MY MISERY."

BUT AT THE LAST MOMENT HIS THOUGHTS FELL ON TITO. "YOU'RE TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON ME NOW. I CAN'T JUST THINK ABOUT MYSELF." RIGHT THEN, HE WAS AWOKEN BY A LOUD WHISTLING.


BEWILDERED, HE LOST HIS BALANCE AND BOTH FELL INTO THE VOID.

THEY ONLY BARELY HAD TIME TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE TRAIN IN THE SHORT MOMENT BEFORE THEY HIT THE GROUND.

HE WAS CRUSHED UNDER THE TRAIN AND IT'S MY FAULT!

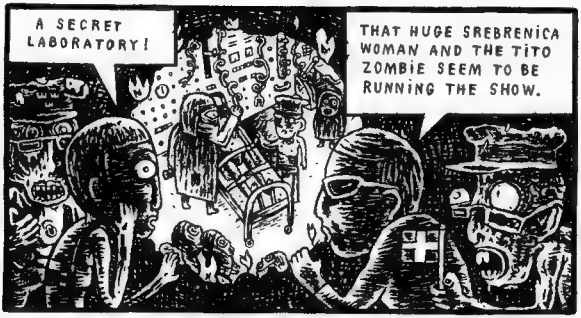
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GIVEN TITO'S LEG AWAY. THEN NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.
BUT THE REFUGEES WERE STARVING.

MAYBE THE LEG HELPED SAVE SOMEBODY'S LIFE? THEN IT WASN'T ALL FOR NOTHING.
I DON'T GIVE A SHIT! IT WASN'T THEIR LEG!

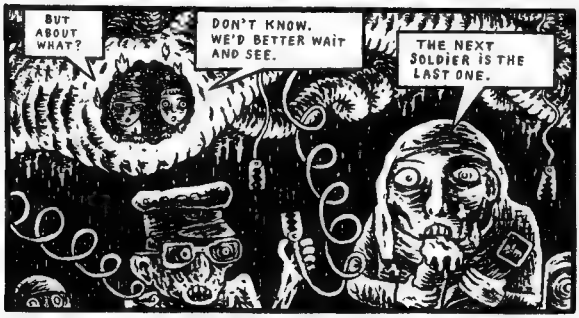
I THOUGHT I DIDN'T CARE ABOUT SKLEDAR ANYMORE, BUT READING ABOUT HIM MADE ME FEEL SO CLOSE TO HIM AGAIN.

DON'T PUT OUT YOUR CIGARETTE HERE! EVERYTHING'S MADE OUT OF PAPER!

THE WALLS ARE ON FIRE. LOOKS LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE BEHIND THEM.


A SECRET LABORATORY!
THAT HUGE SREBRENICA WOMAN AND THE TITO ZOMBIE SEEM TO BE RUNNING THE SHOW.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION BY MEANS OF TORTURE.

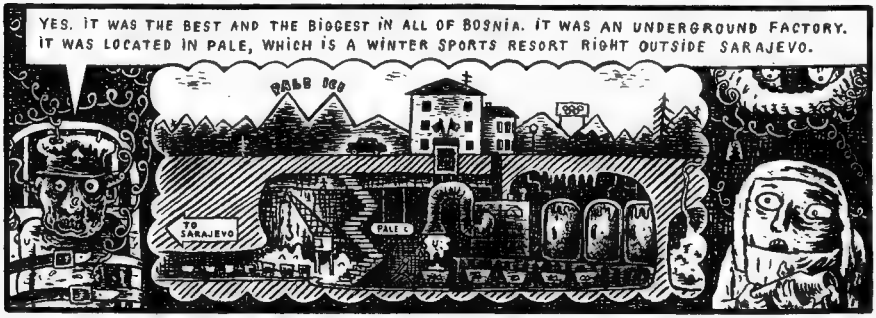

BUT ABOUT WHAT?
DON'T KNOW. WE'D BETTER WAIT AND SEE.
THE NEXT SOLDIER IS THE LAST ONE.

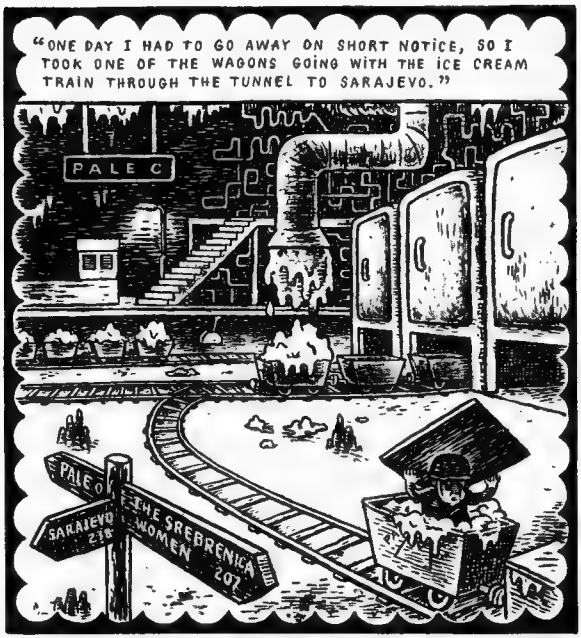
NO! WAIT!

I'M NOT A GENUINE SFOR SOLDIER. I'M A FACTORY OWNER. I JUST DISGUISED MYSELF SO AS NOT TO BE EXPOSED.
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY.

BUT IT'S TRUE! I'M JUST AN ORDINARY BUSINESSMAN FROM PALE. I HAD AN ICE CREAM FACTORY!

AN ICE CREAM FACTORY?

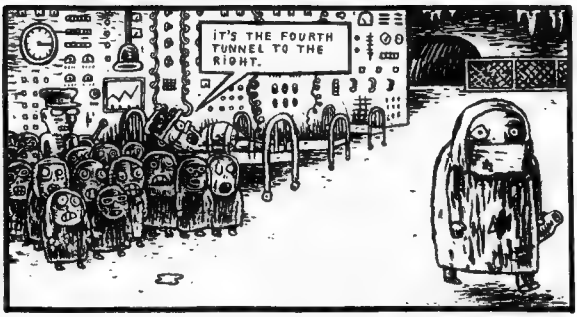

YES. IT WAS THE BEST AND THE BIGGEST IN ALL OF BOSNIA. IT WAS AN UNDERGROUND FACTORY. IT WAS LOCATED IN PALE, WHICH IS A WINTER SPORTS RESORT RIGHT OUTSIDE SARAJEVO.
PALE 1100
TO SARAJEVO
PALE

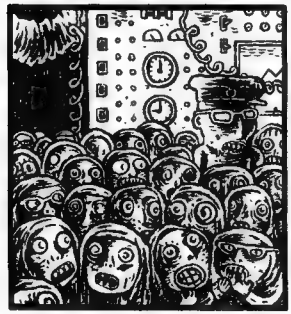

"ONE DAY I HAD TO GO AWAY ON SHORT NOTICE, SO I TOOK ONE OF THE WAGONS GOING WITH THE ICE CREAM TRAIN THROUGH THE TUNNEL TO SARAJEVO."
PALE C
PALE
SARAJEVO 218
THE SREBRENICA WOMEN 207

"I WAS DRESSED IN AN AMERICAN SFOR UNIFORM IN ORDER TO MISLEAD MY COMPETITION IN THE BUSINESS WORLD."

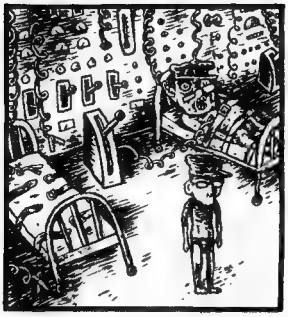
AFTER THAT I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING UNTIL I WOKE UP HERE.

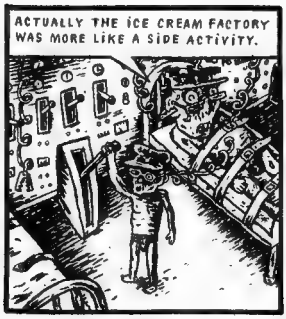
WHICH WAY IS PALE?
I BELIEVE IT'S THE THIRD TUNNEL TO THE LEFT.

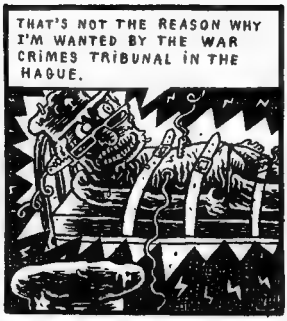

IT'S THE FOURTH TUNNEL TO THE RIGHT.



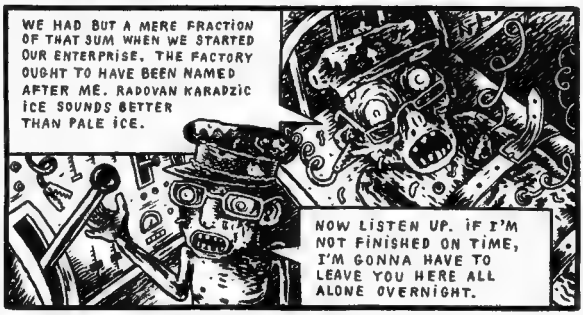
I SHOULD KNOW. IT WAS OF A MAJOR IMPORTANCE WHEN WE DESIGNED THE TUNNEL SYSTEM.




ACTUALLY THE ICE CREAM FACTORY WAS MORE LIKE A SIDE ACTIVITY.

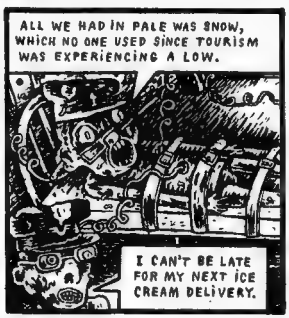

THAT'S NOT THE REASON WHY I'M WANTED BY THE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL IN THE HAGUE.

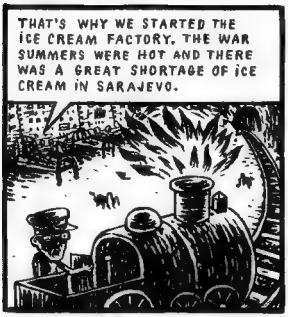
ANYONE WHO CAN SUPPLY INFORMATION LEADING TO MY ARREST WILL BE REWARDED WITH THE SUM OF FIVE MILLION DOLLARS.
THE LESS YOU TALK, THE SOONER WE WILL GET THIS OVER WITH.


WE HAD BUT A MERE FRACTION OF THAT SUM WHEN WE STARTED OUR ENTERPRISE. THE FACTORY OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN NAMED AFTER ME. RADOVAN KARADZIC ICE SOUNDS BETTER THAN PALE ICE.
NOW LISTEN UP. IF I'M NOT FINISHED ON TIME, I'M GONNA HAVE TO LEAVE YOU HERE ALL ALONE OVERNIGHT.

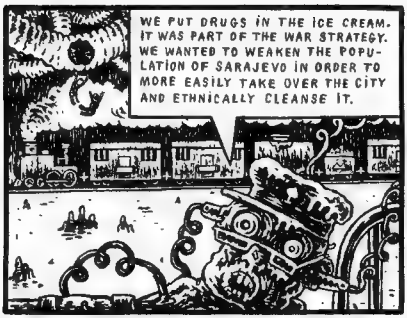
IF WE HAD WON THE WAR, I WOULD HAVE CHANGED THE NAME.
DING DONG

BUT THE WAR WAS GOING NOWHERE. WE NEEDED CASH INFLOW.
I GOTTA GO NOW.

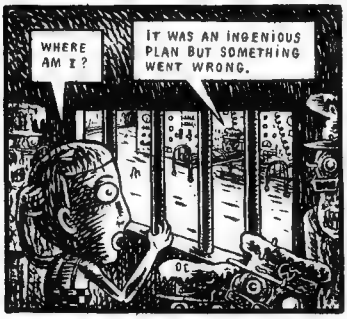

ALL WE HAD IN PALE WAS SNOW, WHICH NO ONE USED SINCE TOURISM WAS EXPERIENCING A LOW.
I CAN'T BE LATE FOR MY NEXT ICE CREAM DELIVERY.


THAT'S WHY WE STARTED THE ICE CREAM FACTORY. THE WAR SUMMERS WERE HOT AND THERE WAS A GREAT SHORTAGE OF ICE CREAM IN SARAJEVO.

THIS IS OUR CHANCE. IF WE JUMP AND LAND ON THE TRAIN AS IT PASSES BELOW US, WE CAN HITCH A RIDE OUT OF HERE.

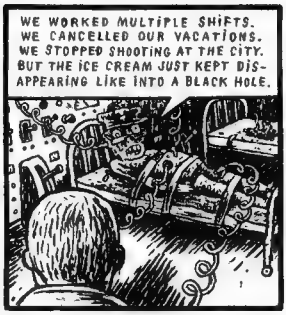

WE PUT DRUGS IN THE ICE CREAM. IT WAS PART OF THE WAR STRATEGY. WE WANTED TO WEAKEN THE POPULATION OF SARAJEVO IN ORDER TO MORE EASILY TAKE OVER THE CITY AND ETHNICALLY CLEANSE IT.

AAAAH!
BESIDES, WE WERE LUCKY. A LARGE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL ICE CREAM LADIES WERE AT OUR DISPOSAL DUE TO THE SUDDEN ARRIVAL IN SARAJEVO OF ALL THE REFUGEE WOMEN FROM SREBRENICA.

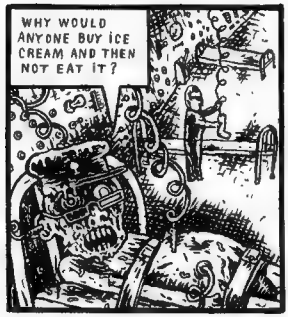

WHERE AM I?
IT WAS AN INGENIOUS PLAN BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG.

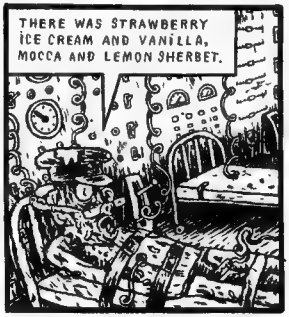
AS FAR AS WE COULD TELL, A SINGLE PERSON BOUGHT ALL THE ICE CREAM AT A QUICKER RATE THAN WE COULD PRODUCE IT, BUT USED IT FOR SOME OTHER PURPOSE THAN EATING IT.
HEY WAIT!

WE NEVER COULD FIGURE OUT FOR WHAT.


WE WORKED MULTIPLE SHIFTS. WE CANCELLED OUR VACATIONS. WE STOPPED SHOOTING AT THE CITY. BUT THE ICE CREAM JUST KEPT DISAPPEARING LIKE INTO A BLACK HOLE.

WHOEVER IT WAS, HE SAVED SARAJEVO.
TITO'S LEG!


WHY WOULD ANYONE BUY ICE CREAM AND THEN NOT EAT IT?


THERE WAS STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM AND VANILLA, MOCCA AND LEMON SHERBET.

MY FAVORITE IS BANANA SPLIT BUT I NEVER GET IT 'CAUSE MOM SAYS WE CAN'T AFFORD IT.

Also by Max Andersson:

Pixy (Graphic novel)

Death & Candy # 1-3

+ stories in the anthology Zero Zero

# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 19

Available from Fantagraphics Books,
7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, Wa. 98115 U.S.A.
Call 1-800-657-1100 to order by phone
or order from www.fantagraphics.com

Death & Candy # 4, April, 2005.

Death & Candy is published by Fantagraphics Books, inc. and is copyright © 2005 Max Andersson except Bosnian Flat Dog which is copyright © 2003, 2004, 2005 Max Andersson and Lars Sjunnesson. No part of this magazine may be reprinted without written permission from Fantagraphics Books or Max Andersson.

Publishers: Gary Groth and Kim Thompson

Cover dogs by Helena Ahonen

No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and institutions in Death and Candy and those of any living or dead persons is intended and any such similarity that may exist is purely coincidental.

www.maxandersson.com

First printing: March, 2005

Printed in Canada

A Pyramid Scan
PEPSI
C2C • Quality • CBZ